

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BS NEA/INS:JELEADER:EI
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.
AID/NESA:JCOLES

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R 042331Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: DECONTROL 7/1/78

TAGS: EAID, CE

SUBJECT: CEYLONese AMBASSADOR'S CALLS ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ATHERTON AND AID ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR NOOTER
REF: COLOMBO 1001

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CEYLONese AMBASSADOR CALLED ON AID
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR NOOTER APRIL 3 AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ATHERTON APRIL 4 TO DELIVER SEPARATE LETTERS
FROM PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE TO PRESIDENT. THE FIRST
LETTER DEALT WITH SRI LANKA AID GROUP MEETING IN IARIS
AND THE SECOND WAS THANK YOU FOR FY 75US ASSISTANCE.
KANAKARATNE MADE PITCH IN BOTH MEETINGS FOR FORTHCOMING
US POSITION AT PARIS. ATHERON AND NOOTER RESPONDED THAT
WE WISHED TO CONTINUE ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA BUT SUG-
GESTED SPECIFIC PLEDGES MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME.

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END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSAION WITH ATHERTON, KANAKARATNE SECONDED THANKS EXPRESSED IN PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT FOR VERY TIMELY US ASSISTANCE IN AGREEMENTS SIGNED MARCH 25. HE RECALLED CONVERSATION DAY PREVIOUS WITH NOOTER AND SAID HE HOPED USG WOULD KEEP SRI LANKA NEEDS IN MIND AT PARIS PARTICULARLY SINCE OTHERDONORS TENDTO FOLLOW US LEAD. ATHERTON RESPONDED THAT HE HOPED RECENT US AID AGREEMENTS

WITH SRI LANKA WOULD BE USEFUL IN INDICATING AMERICAN INTEREST IN CEYLONESE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE NOTED THAT WE HOPED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO CEYLONESE NEEDS IN COMING YEAR BUT UNCERTAINTY OVER PL 480 PROGRAM GENERALLY AND PRELIM-

INARY STATUS OF OUR CURRENTBUDGET PROCESS MEANS THAT WE PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILS AT PARIS.

3. KANAKARATNE RECALLED THAT CEYLONESE WERE PLEASED WITH ATHERTON'S STATEMENT IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS LAST FALL REGARDING US SPECIAL AFFINITY FOR SRI LANKA BECAUSE OF SHARED DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. HE NOTED THERE WERE FEW BILATERAL PROBLEMS ALTHOUGH ON DIEGO GARCIA WE HAD DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

4. KANAKARTNE THEN ASKED FOR ATHERTON'S COMMENTS ON AREA OF HIS RESPONSIBILIY. ADDRESSING SOUTH ASIA, ATHERTON REVIEWED CONSIDERATIONS WHICH PROMPTED US DECISION TO LIFT ARMS EMBARGO FOR INDIA AND PAKISTAN AND SAID WE BELIEVED DECISION WAS COMPATIBLE WITH CONTINUED SIMLA PROCESS WHICH WE FULLY SUPPORTED. ON MIDDLE EAST HE NOTED US IS STUDYING NEW SITUATION AND REMAINS COMMITED TO DO ALL WE CAN TO KEEP PEACE-MAKING PROCESS MOVING. SAID HE THOUGHT ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WERE ACTING WITH RESTRAINT AND REALIZED THAT THE SITUATION, IF IT GOT OUT OF HAND, WAS NOT AS CONTAINABLE AS IN EARLIER YEARS.

5. IN APRIL 3 CONVERSATION WITH NOOTER, KANAKARATNE TOOK SIMILAR LINE TO THAT TAKEN WITH ATHERTON ON PARIS AID GROUP MEETING. NOOTER NOTED NEGAIVE COMMENTS IN WORLD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BANK REPORT ON SOME ASPECTS OF CEYLONESE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. KANAKARANE RESPONDED HAT GSL SOMETIMES GOT IMPATIENT WITH LACK OF CONTINUITY IN ANNUAL WORLD BANK STUDIES OF SRI LANKA ECONOMY. BANK SENT NEW TEAMS EACH YEAR WHO HAD LIMITED KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCE TO ASSESS SRI LANKA'S PROBLEMS. NOTED THAT BANK ECONOMISTS HAD GOOD THEORETICAL VIEW BUT COULD NEVER ANSWER CEYLONESE QUESTION ON HOW THEY WOULD DEAL WITH PRACTICAL POLITICS OF MANAG-

ING A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN DEMOCRATIC SRI LANKA. INGERSOLL

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